RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 3rd May, 1994
13 Vaisakha, 1916 (Saka)

The house met at eleven of the clock
Mr. Chairman in the Chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Power Supply to Agricultural Sector in Punjab

*501. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to increase power supply to the farmers in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of power being supplied daily at present to the farmers; and

(d) what is the actual demand for electricity for the agricultural sector in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Distribution of power is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government. Power supply to various consumers is decided by the State Authorities, keeping in view the priorities of consumers as well as demand and availability of power. The Government of Punjab has advised that as at present the supply made available to farmers in Punjab is sufficient to meet the requirements of crops. In order to further improve the availability of power in Punjab it is envisaged to add 930 MW capacity in Punjab during the 8th Plan.

The State will also get its due share from the Central Sector Projects which are being set up in the Northern Region. Various other measures being taken to increase the availability of power in Punjab include maximising generation from the existing generating stations, implementation of Renovation and Modernisation programme, Reduction in Transmission and Distribution losses, effective load management and energy conservation measures, assistance from neighbouring States and systems etc., whenever feasible.

(c) During 1993-94, on an average, 13.15 hours power supply was given daily to the farmers of Punjab.

(d) Month-wise energy requirement in Agricultural Sector in Punjab during May, 1993—April, 1994 is given in the enclosed statement-I.

Statement-I

Monthwise Energy Requirement in Agricultural Sector in Punjab

(Figures in Lakh Units per day)

Month	Agricultural (Average)	Agricultural as %age of total requirement
May, 1993	232.4	56.0
June, 1993	385.3	56.0
July, 1993	298.7	52.0
August, 1993	402.0	56.0
Sept., 1993	233.2	44.3
Oct., 1993	178.6	37.0
Nov., 1993	144.6	35.5
December, 1993	157.8	35.5
January, 1994	148.4	35.5
February, 1994	148.9	35.5
March, 1994	161.8	35.5
April, 1994 (upto 26th)	150.1	35.5

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : सभापति महोदय, बिजली बोर्डों के हिसाब में कुछ गड़बड़ नजर आती है। पंजाब में सात लाख ट्यूबवेल कनेक्शन है। हर ट्यूबवेल कनेक्शन का कनेक्टेड लोड 3.8 किलोवाट है। मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि साढ़े तेरह घंटे बिजली किसानों को दी जाती है। यह जो बिजली किसानों को दी जाती है, इस बिजली का इस्तेमाल वे खेती में पानी लगाने के लिए करते है। जिस जमीन पर वह पानी लगाते है वह 60 लाख एकड़ है। आप इसको इस संदर्भ में देखें तो हर साल 90 हरीगेझस हर खेत में जाती है। पंजाब एग्रीकल्चर यूनीवर्सिटी कहती है कि हर हरीगेझन में पौना एकड़ फुट पानी लगता है। पौना एकड़ फुट पानी लगने से यह जो सारा पानी लगता है यह 66 एकड़ फुट लगना चाहिये। 20 मीटर पानी होगा, एक एकड़ को देना होगा। इसके दूसरी तरफ पंजाब एग्रीकल्चर यूनीवर्सिटी कहती है कि पैदी को 1.25 मीटर पानी प्रति एकड़ चाहिये और

गेहूं के लिए 0.75 मीटर चाहिये तो यह कुल दो मीटर पानी हुआ। लेकिन बिजली बोर्ड कहता है कि किसानों को 20 मीटर पानी देते हैं इस हिसाब से, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह बाकी का 18 मीटर पानी किधर गया ? वास्तव में यह . . . . (व्यवधान)।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : महोदय, यह जो बिजली है, यह किसानों के खाते में डाली जाती है क्योंकि किसानों को बिजली फ्लेट रेट में मिलती है जबकि वास्तव में उनको यह बिजली मिलती नहीं है। यह बिजली चोरी हो करके इंडस्ट्रीज को जाती है। क्या मंत्री जी यह बताएंगे कि इसमें रेशनेल क्या है ? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि किसानों को जो यह बिजली दी जाती है, क्या वाकई में यह खेती में इस्तेमाल करते हैं, अगर करते हैं तो फिर यह पानी कहां जाता है, इसके बारे में कुछ बताएंगे ?

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Sir, I am not able to see any question in his speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is an explanation. What is the question?

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : स्वेश्चन यह है कि जो तेरह, साढ़े तेरह घंटे बिजली किसानों को दी जाती है, यह बिजली किसान खेती में पानी देने के लिए इस्तेमाल करते हैं, यह तो जाहिर है, लेकिन यह बिजली जाती कहां है। किसान तो दो मीटर इस्तेमाल करता है लेकिन बाकी 18 मीटर पानी जो बिजली निकालती है, वह कहां जाता है ? या तो इनके अकाऊंटिंग में कोई गड़बड़ है या फिर साढ़े तेरह घंटे उनको बिजली नहीं दी जाती है, इसमें कुछ गड़बड़ है या फिर जो बिजली दी जाती है वह पानी कम निकालती है या इनके अकाऊंटिंग में कुछ गड़बड़ है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are saying that so much electricity is not given. Obviously, the Government has checked up the figures.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : मैं यही कह रहा हूं। यह कनकाक्टेड फिगर्ज हैं। इन फिगर्ज को ठीक करने के लिए मंत्री जी क्या कुछ कर रहे हैं ? (व्यवधान)

SHRI G. G. SWELL : The electricity which goes in the name of farmers, is diverted to industries.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Swell, you please sit down. . . . . *(Interruptions)*

No, no.

Has the Minister got to make any comment on this ? It is not a question. He is saying that he does not know where these 13½ hours go and who takes it.

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per the information given by the Government of Punjab, they have a system in Punjab whereby they continuously supply power for 12 hours to one area. Then, they shut it off and supply to another area. They rotate it also. It is not that throughout Punjab, all the people will get power for 12 hours at the same time. Some areas get power for the first 12 hours and some other areas get power for the remaining 12 hours. So, they have a day and night sort of distribution. Sometimes, they shift from day to night and from night to day. On any day, they get power for about 12 hours. I cannot say whether water is avilable or not.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : ये जो बिजली देते हैं यह वास्तव में इन्होंने कहा कि मुझे पता नहीं कि उनका पानी निकलता है कि नहीं निकलता है, वह पानी कहां जाता है। इसके बारे में इनका मतलब नहीं है। लेकिन वह बिजली पानी निकालने के लिए ही इस्तेमाल होती है और वह बिजली जो फालतू किसानों के एकाऊंट में डाली जाती है वह वास्तव में किसानों के एकाऊंट में डालते हैं और इंडस्ट्री को चोरी करवाई जाती है और इसमें करप्शन है। इस करप्शन से और इफीशियंसी बढ़ती है। इन्होंने कहा अपने ही जवाब में कि ये इफीशियंसी को बढ़ाएंगे, रिनोवेट करेंगे, माडर्नाइज करेंगे और क्या-क्या करेंगे। इसमें करप्शन का इतना बड़ा मेजर फैक्टर है। बिजली बोर्ड कहता है कि किसानों को 50 परसेंट सब्सिडी देते हैं लेकिन इस 50 परसेंट में से कितनी बिजली वास्तव में—कुरुक्षेत्र फिगर्स नहीं, वह जो भरे जाते हैं वह नहीं, एक्चुअल में जो जाती है, उसमें वे क्या करेंगे . . . . (व्यवधान)।

MR. CHAIRMAN : You say that is is not going to the farmers . . . . *(Interruptions).*

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : एक्चुअली नहीं जा रही है सर ! इन्होंने 13, साढ़े 13 घंटे कहा, अब 12 घंटे कहा, थोड़ी देर में 6 घंटे कहेंगे . . . . (व्यवधान)।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your point is well understood.

विद्युत मंत्री (श्री एम. के. पी खालचे) : हमें यह मालूम नहीं कि किसानों के नाम पर कितनी बिजली उनके नामे मान ली

जाती है और वह जाती कहां है क्योंकि यह हमारा दायित्व नहीं है। हमारा दायित्व सिर्फ इतना है कि हमारे जो उपक्रम हैं जो बिजली का निर्माण करते हैं वे वह बिजली नार्दन ग्रिड को दे देते हैं और नार्दन ग्रिड अलग-अलग मुख्तलिफ राज्यों को वह वितरित कर देता है। वितरित करने के बाद आगे जो वितरण की व्यवस्था है वह स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड्स के हाथ में है। हमारा कोई दायित्व नहीं है इस चीज को जान लेने का या उसका इलाज कर लेने का तो है ही नहीं। हमारे पास जो मालूमात है वह हमने जवाब में लिख दी है।

श्री ब्रजेन्द्र सिंह माल : बिजली का इन्होंने कहा कि हमारा यह दायित्व नहीं है। हम बिल देते हैं उस बिजली का जो बिजली हमें मिलती नहीं है। जो बिजली हमें मिलती नहीं है उसका बिल हमसे क्यों लिया जाता है . . . (व्यवधान) ये कहते हैं कि 50 परसेंट सब्सिडी देते हैं . . . (व्यवधान) यह सारा बिजली के संबंध में हो रहा है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever answer can be given has been given.

SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Sir, in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question, the Minister has replied that the State will also get its due share from the Central Sector Projects. The Centre will also try to maximise energy generation and implement renovation and modernisation programmes and reduce transmission and distribution losses. Besides Punjab, Haryana is one of the State which primarily depends upon agricultural production. the farmers are continuously suffering not only this year but also for the last many years. The farmers of Haryana are not even getting . . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is about Punjab.

SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : I an coming to Punjab. I would like to ask on a policy matter, not particularly about Haryana. The situation in Punjab and Haryana is similar in the matters of new projects, implementation of renovation programmes, transmission losses etc. Haryana is suffering on account of the fact . . . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I suggest that you ask a separate question. You please ask a separate question.

SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Okay, Sir. Kindly permit me to know whether the Central Government proposes to start construction of Central projects, as mentioned, at Yamunanagar and Faridabad in Haryana.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think you to ask a separate question. When the question relates to Punjab, the Ministers don't come prepared for Haryana. Now, Mr. Satish Agarwal.

SHRI SATISH AGGARWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are perfectly right that the question relates to Punjab. But kindly see the second paragraph of the reply wherein it is stated that the State will also get its due share from the Central sector projects which are being set up in the Northern region.

He has assured the hon. Members that the supplies will be augmented from Northern grid or from the projects in the Northern region. Now as per the details available in a letter sent by the hon. Minister to all the Members of Parliament, I understand that the Working Group of the Planning Commission has recommended an addition of 48,000 MW in the Eighth Plan. He said that it has been scaled down to 30,000 MW. But the information made available through his letter he will be able to achieve only 20,000 MW in the Eighth Plan. So, how will be augment the supply of electricity—as estimated in this reply—to the farmers either of Punjab, Haryana or Rajasthan? In Rajasthan, we are getting power supply for only 8 hours. That is the problem. How will you do this?

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what we have stated in the brochure is different from what the hon. Member is asking. The opitmum that we can go up to in the Eighth Five Year Plan is 20,000 MW. Though the 14th Electric Power Survey (EPS) has estimated that to meet the shortage by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan, we needed 48,000 MW of power. We have an acute resource crunch. That is why the Planning Commission has scaled it down to 30,537 MW. But in actuality no monies were coming and the market also did not give us enough help and loan. So the actual additionality of power generation in the Eighth Five Year Plan is not likely to be more than 20,000 MW. In this 20,000 MW of power, it will be those plants which would augment generation of power in the areas which are supplying power to the Northern grid. For example, Chamela plant has now been commissioned. It is a hydel plant. Out of the three turbines of

180MW each, two are already working. So, that is what we meant when we said, "We are augmenting there." We did not say that the totality of augmentation will go beyond 20,000 but within 20,000 MW whatever augmentation is possible we will do it. That is what we have referred to.

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI : Sir, the hon. Minister has said that because of the financial crunch they are going to reduce their power generation targets. But the Government's attention is focused on privatisation and inviting foreign investment in the power sector. May I know from the Minister how far he has progressed ? What is the amount likely to be invested ? What is the power that will be generated ? He may enlighten the House.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the supplementary put by the hon. Member doesn't arise out of this. However, I will be very happy to answer it.... *(Interruptions)*. Off the cuff, all that I can tell him is that we have received 75 proposals for generation of power from the private sector. Out of 75 proposals, 35 proposals are from foriegn companies which involve generation of 73,000 MW of power. It involves a cost of Rs. 1,04,000 crores. Out of that, 7 proposals have been cleared by the CCFI. They are very close to a financial closure.

I also want to point out that whenever power sector was sought to be privatised the experience of the U.K. and the U.S.A. shows that it takes quite sometime before the power plants come into operation. Apart from that, there is long gestation period also. Even the actual commencement of the construction work takes quite sometime. In the U.S.A., the first power plant started construction from the formulation stage after 8 years. But from that point of view, we had a very warm response. Seven projects have been cleared by the CCFI. Hopefully, if their financial closure comes soon, we should have the work commencing sometime in 1994.

श्री अजीत जोगी : सभापति महोदय, जिस तरह पंजाब के किसानों को बिजली मिलने की शिकायत है लगभग वैसे ही स्थिति पूरे देश में सब प्रदेशों में है। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्रीजी से जानना चाहूंगा कि यह जो उत्पादन और आवश्यकता में अंतर है, जनरेशन और डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन में जो अंतर है अर्थात् बिजली जरूरत किसानों और उद्योगों को है उतनी बिजली हम देने नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। इसके लिए सब प्रावधान ने इंप्लीमेंटेशन प्रारंभ किया है। तो मंत्री महोदय, कृपया यह बताएं कि कब तक ऐसी स्थिति आ जाएगी और इतना उत्पादन हम को निजी क्षेत्रों से मिल जाएगा कि यह जो गैप है बिजली के उत्पादन और आवश्यकता में, यह गैप दूर हो जाए और किसानों को आवश्यकतानुसार बिजली मिलने लगे। यह स्थिति कब तक बन जाएगी और किन-किन प्रदेशों में इसके लिए क्या-क्या योजना बनायी गयी है ?

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not correct to say that the farmers of Punjab are having a lot of shortage of power. In Punjab, the power demand varies from month to month, especially so in the agricultural sector. In the months of April, May, June and July, the shortage is less. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : When there is no shortage, there should be no cut. *(Interruptions)*. Sir, the hon. Minister is saying that there is no shortage of power. Then, why is there a cut ?

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : I am coming to the point, Sir. In fact, Punjab gives power to Rajasthan to the tune of 615 million units. They are surplus in power in certain months. They are short in power during the peak agricultural season, especially during the paddy season. They are short of power when rains do not come in time. Last year, in August, due to drought conditions, we had the maximum demand. The demand is not to the same extent throughout the year in Punjab. I want to submit that there are certain months during which Punjab becomes surplus in power and it gives power to Rajasthan and U.P. The shortage is seasonal when we will have to meet the demand by having power from some other sources.

Regarding bridging the gap between the demand and the supply, our projections indicate that even after the end of the Eighth Five-Year Plan, there is bound to be shortage even though we would meet the 30,500 mega watt target. The demand is increasing in geometrical progression whereas the supply is increasing only in arithmetical progression. So, we have to balance the increase in the demand and the production by other methods like using the energy more effectively, in adopting energy conservation method reducing the T&D losses, improving the plant load factor, of energy, etc. It is not possible to fill the gap between the demand and the supply only by adding to the capacity.

श्री इकबाल सिंह : सर, लाभी मंत्रीजी ने अपने उत्तर में बताया कि पंजाब की जो बिजली है उसको राजस्थान को दिया जाता है। मैं मंत्रीजी से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि 71 परसेंट फूड पंजाब का फार्मर अपनी मेहनत से सेंट्रल पूल में देता है। तो क्या पंजाब को पूरी-की-पूरी बिजली नहीं मिलनी चाहिए जिससे कि पंजाब का फार्मर पूरी तरह सेंट्रल पूल में फूड दे सके ?

SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU : What I have said is, during the surplus season, after meeting the requirements of Punjab farmers fully, only additional power available, is sent to Rajasthan; not at the cost of the farmers of Punjab.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 502.

Breach of Norms of Journalistic Ethics

502. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several newspapers, news-megazines and journals have been indicted by the Press Council of India in the recent past and later convicted by the courts for breach of norms of journalistic ethics and for denigrating public men of eminence;

(b) if so, the names of publications which have been indicted and convicted, showing fines and sentences imposed in each case during the period from April, 1993 to March 1994; and

(c) what action Government have taken so far or propose to take to curb such tendency of mud-slinging on eminent public men by the newspapers, news-megazines and journals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) (a) and (b) A statement showing publications indicted by the Press Council of India during April, 1993 to March, 1994 is laid on the table of the House. (See below) The Government does not maintain record of convictions of publications by Courts.

(c) The Government has not such proposal, as adequate remedies are already available under the Indian Penal Code.

Statement

List of Important Newspapers Censured During 1993-94

1. Complaint of Ms. Rekha against Naya Khoon, Hindi Fortnightly, New Delhi.
2. Complaint of Shri Ram Kirpal of Lucknow against Swatantra Bharat, Lucknow.
3. Complaint of Shri Ram Kirpal of Lucknow against Nispaksh Pratidin, Lucknow.
4. Complaint of Shri Ram Kirpal of Lucknow against Chetna Vichardhara, Lucknow.
5. Complaint of Shir Ram Kirpal of Lucknow against Swatantra Chetna of Lucknow.
6. Complaint of Addl. Commissioner of Police, CID, Bombay against Navakal, Marathi daily, Bombay.
7. Complaint of Dr. Wazid Ali Khan against Talat Ki Awaz, Hindi Weekly, Muzaffarnagar.
8. Complaint of Dr. Mathan Kumar Denial against Police News Weekly, Madras.
9. Complaint of Shankar Namkeen Bhandar, Saharanpur against Chhintey Aur Bouchharey issue dated 26-6-1992.
10. Complaint of Shankar Namkeen Bhandar, Saharanpur against Chhintey Aur Bouchharey issue dated 19-6-1992.
11. Complaint of Shankar Namkeen Bhandar, Saharanpur against Chhintey Aur Bouchharey issue dated 19-7-1992
12. Complaint of Shri H. P. Gaur, Factory Manager, Star Paper Mills, Saharanpur against Chhintey Aur Bouchharey.
13-15. Complaint of Shri Niranjan Lal Sharma (b) Shri Ram Krishan Savada and (c) Bhartiya Lakhak Patrakar Sangh, Bombay against Bahujan Sangharh, Hindi Weekly, Delhi.
16. Complaint of Ms. Harinder Kaur of Karnal against National Service, Lucknow.
17. Complaint of Dr. A. R. Bedar, Director, Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library,